

Nearing C-17's amplify 15th MXS OPS tempo

By Kirsten Tacker
Kukini Photojournalist

The 15th Maintenance Squadron is the first operationally blended active duty, Guard and civilian backshop maintenance crew that are part of Hickam's new future total force.

A backshop maintenance crew deals with parts, once they've been removed from the aircraft and brought back to the shop for repair.

Officially reactivated on July 7, MXS falls under the newly formed 15th Maintenance Group, housed in the Consolidated Maintenance Complex.

MXS also supports all of the aerospace ground equipment out on the flight line.

"Aerospace ground equipment is all the power and non-powered equipment that they use for aircraft," said Maj. Jon Bradley, 15th MXS commander. "Everything from jacks to an air conditioner, to cool the aircraft."

"We take care of all the transient airplanes that come through too," continued Major Bradley. "It is not just the 735th Air Mobility Squadron's airplanes, but anything else that comes through."

Additionally MXS does precision measurement laboratory equipment work, which calibrate assets, not just for maintenance, but also for all over the base.

MXS' mission is not simply put into a summary of few words. Encompassing many tasks their mission is fairly diverse. It is also a mission that can help sustain the lives of an aircrew, but quite a bit of their mission is derived outside of the C-17's.

Particularly because this crew previously existed under another unit name on Hickam, supporting the 735th AMS.

"We reactivated under the MXS, but we've been supporting AMC for decades, this is a re-designated unit," said Major Bradley.

Technically what's new is Guard and active duty falling under the same unit heading as part of the same team. Not just working along side of one another as they've done in the past.

"We've been working together with the Guard for a couple of decades, so this isn't necessarily a new phenomenon for us," said Major Bradley.

"The unique thing about the Guard is that we are partners, said Master Sgt. Dexter



Photos by Kirsten Tacker

Senior Airman Tobias Abemathy, 15th Maintenance Squadron, cuts a piece of sheet metal that will later be placed on an aircraft for repairs. The 15th Maintenance Squadron is just one of several squadrons that are part of the new C-17s coming to Hickam.

Chin, 154th MXS. "Anytime we transition to something new, whether it is a new marriage or anything new, there are transitions in getting to know each other. It is a family

thing, even families have problems minor or major, but it is still family. In the sense of the ohana, we are still part of the ohana."

Unifying this innovative partnership

includes effectively integrating everyone into one unit for which there is no precedence, as well as preparing for the arrival of the C-17's.

"Operationally the Guard and active duty will operate the same under one unit, administratively we will always be separate," said Chief Master Sgt. Tyrone Schmidt, 15th MXS' superintendent.

This newly formed partnership applies the experience of combined effort between the Guard and active duty, also their resource availability within this newly developing team.

"We are integrating as best we can," said Major Bradley. "We've been supporting C-17 for years. 'We've been doing it with an en route capability. Now we are moving to a home stage capability that causes us to be more robust.'"

Even though MXS has supported C-17's in the past, incoming C-17's have brought about some changes to their unit.

"One of the biggest things is the technology we are bringing in to support the C-17 that we previously have not had," said Sergeant Schmidt.

This new technology allows MXS to do a more state-of-the-art repair. In the past they may have had to do a patch repair or even a temporary repair until the aircraft reached its home station.

"The scope of our operation has increased quite a bit," stated Senior Master Sgt. Roth Beebe, 15th MXS.

The C-17 also brings advanced composites like Kevlar and MXS will have those capabilities to manufacture and repair with the new technology.

"We are doing something brand new that hasn't been done before," said Major Bradley. "We are plowing virgin ground as we often say. When you do that, you often find some rocks and roots under the surface we have to take care of."

MXS are the servicemembers behind the scenes who aren't often seen out on the flight line, with a mission so diverse they are pulled in many directions. The nearing C-17's presently add another layer to their already active unit.

"Our OPS tempo will increase some, but for the most part I don't see the arriving C-17's increasing it exponentially, compared to some of the other units," concluded Major Bradley.



Left: (left to right) Staff Sgt. Hartsun Kang and Senior Airman James Chun, 154th Maintenance Squadron, tear apart an aircraft's tire to be overhauled. This action is required on all aircraft after a certain amount of flight hours.

Above: Senior Airman Bryce Knape, 15th MXS, welds a metal structure.

Team Hickam History

The Air Force’s most historic airfield

Jan. 18, 1778 – Capt. James Cook sighted the Hawaiian Islands for the first time. He named them the Sandwich Islands after his friend and patron, the earl of Sandwich.

Jan. 14, 1913 – A fleet of Army transports arrived from San Francisco, carrying the men, dependents and equipment for an infantry regiment, a cavalry regiment and three companies of coast artillery. Two of the cost artillery companies – the 68th and the 75th – were stationed at Fort. Kamehameha.

Jan. 14, 1938 – Construction of the water tower at Hickam Field was completed. Built under the direction of Capt. Howard Nurse, U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps, the tower, of Moorish design, cost \$43,146.60.

Jan. 13, 1949 – Flying a Beechcraft Bonanza, William Odom set a world distance record for light planes by a 2,400-mile nonstop flight from Honolulu to Oakland in 22 hours.

Jan. 14, 1984 – A severe earthquake on the Big Island of Hawaii caused considerable damage at Kilauea Military Camp, a recreational area for all the military services.

Jan. 14, 1984 – First Lt. Michael Baker relinquished command of Det. 2, 15th Airbase Wing, at Kilauea Military Camp, to 1st Lt. Marianne Sagal.

Jan. 16, 1984 – The Shanta Shibani, an Indian merchant vessel, arrived at Wake Island for emergency repairs. Personnel at Wake provided required support until the ship departed for Guam Feb. 14, 1984.

Jan. 15, 1985 – The 6594th Test Group, an Air Force Systems Command unit based at Hickam, lost seven personnel when their HH-53 helicopter crashed on the ship Asian Beauty while attempting a rescue mission.

Jan. 15, 1985 – Col. George Schwender assumed duty as Director of Base Medical Services and Commander of the USAF Clinic, Hickam, succeeding Col. Paul Humbert.

Jan. 19, 1988 – Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita of Japan arrived at Hickam for a one-hour layover on his way home from his first visit to the United States as prime minister.

Jan. 17, 1995 – Air Mobility Command Commander, Gen. Robert Rutherford declared initial operational capability for the C-17 and the Globemaster III officially began flying operational missions.

Jan. 16-17, 2002 – The 15th Airbase Wing conducts an initial response readiness exercise.

Jan. 16-22, 2002 – Eleven different units from a variety of military branches, including 25th ASOS, A-10 and C-130 ANG squadrons, conduct the Patriot Thunder exercise, a joint exercise that requires planning, coordination, and execution of close air support operations.

Crossword Puzzle: View from the Top

By **Capt. Tony Wickman**
71 Flying Training Wing
Public Affairs

ACROSS

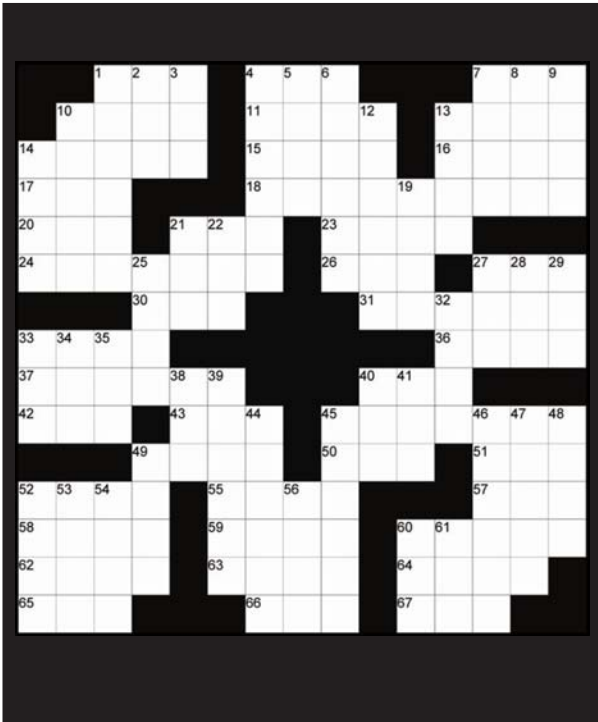
- ACROSS
1. Fringe
4. Cable movie channel
7. Swab
10. Fancy mushrooms
11. Law & Order actress Elisabeth
13. Undoing
14. Rope plant
15. Car racing league
16. Singing voice
17. Dab
18. Banister
20. Anger
21. Quaff
23. Tense
24. AFMC commander
26. Wane
27. USAF Intel org.
30. Approves

31. Atlantic Ocean sea in northern Europe
33. Mocked
36. Forget
37. Brook
40. Neither’s partner
42. Bad review
43. Unused
45. AFRC commander
49. ____ Domini
50. Hearing instrument
51. Western Saharan river Rio de ____
52. Roman garb
55. Lullaby
57. Mork’s home world
58. Grad
59. Obstruct
60. Lake transport
62. ACC commander
63. Zeus’ wife
64. Dutch colonist in South Africa
65. Goddess of the dawn
66. Boat handling term

67. Cunning

DOWN

1. PACAF commander
2. Federal environmental org.
3. Singer Torme
4. Rose
5. Beetle Bailey’s Walker
6. Mass. politician Rufus
7. West Africa country
8. Atop
9. Slave
10. 1, 2, Step singer
12. AMC commander
13. Thai currency
14. ____ and Span cleaner
19. Gitmo home
21. Question
22. ____ Angeles
25. Deposit
27. Cash machine
28. 3, to Julius Caesar
29. Perform
32. AFSPC commander
33. Cleo killer
34. School org.
35. Sea bird
38. Actress Heche
39. Person having admirable characteristics
40. Gun lobby
41. Paddle
44. AFSOC commander
45. Panhandler
46. AETC commander
47. Mistake
48. Coupling
49. Item for 45 DOWN
52. Grab
53. Margarine
54. ____ and Dolls
56. Northern Lights writer Roberts
60. NBC rival
61. Eathlink competitor



AT THE MOVIES

Memorial Theater 448-2297
CLOSED Monday and Tuesday

Today at 7 p.m.

Aeon Flux – In the 25th century, a rampaging virus has forced the remnants of humanity into the seclusion of a final city. There is great political conflict within, however, and this is the story of an acrobatic assassin, Aeon Flux, whose latest target is the government’s top leader. Starring Charlize Theron and Frances McDormand. Rated PG-13 for sequences of violence and sexual content.

Saturday at 7 p.m.

Saw II – After discovering the aftermath of a gruesome murder, Mason a police detective is convinced that Jigsaw is up to his ugly tricks again. The master criminal proves to be easy to capture, eight people have been locked away by Jigsaw, and they must torture their bodies and minds to achieve the terrible justice Jigsaw seeks.Starring Tobin Bell and Donnie Wahlberg. Rated R for strong violence, drug use, language and sexuality.

Sunday at 7 p.m.

Just Friends – Chris is a selfish, womanizing and successful music executive. Circumstances bring him back to his home town and fate reconnects him with the “just friends” girl of his dreams. Can one escape the clutches of the “friend zone?” Is it possible to go from “just friend” to boyfriend? Chris is about to find out the hard way. Starring Ryan Reynolds and Amy Smart. Rated for PG-13 – sexual content including some dialogue.



**Win Pro Bowl tickets**

Weekdays from Jan. 2 – 20, bowl during open bowling from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., except holidays, and receive a chance to win tickets to the Pro Bowl. Fill out one entry slip for each game bowled. A three-game series earns four entry-slips. Call the Bowling Center at 449-2702.

Spoken Word Night

Spoken Word night today from 9:30 p.m. to midnight in JR Rockers Lounge.

Grab the microphone and express yourself! No pre-registration required.

**Texas Hold 'Em**

Texas Hold 'Em is today beginning at 7 p.m. in the Officers' Club Daedalian Room. This event is free for members and \$15 for non-members. Reservations recommended. Call the Officers' Club at 448-4608.

Spear Fishing 101 at Pool #2

A spear fishing workshop is tomorrow from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost of \$30 per person includes a demonstration of training and equipment given in the water. Must be 15 years or older and an accomplished swimmer to participate. Bring mask, fins and snorkel gear. Call Outdoor Recreation at 449-5215.

Dolphin and whale watch cruise

A dolphin and whale watch cruise is tomorrow. Excursion includes transportation, a two-hour cruise and a snack. Call Information, Tickets and Travel at 448-2295 for time and price.

**Scrapbook Club**

The Scrapbook Club meets tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The cost is \$25 for half-day or \$30 for whole day of scrapbooking. Fee includes the use of cropping tools, handouts and pupus. Call the Community Center at 449-2361.

Bottom fishing in Hickam Harbor

A bottom fishing excursion in Hickam

Harbor is Sunday from 8 to 11 a.m. The cost of \$25 per person includes two guides, transportation by boat, fishing poles and bait. There is a maximum of eight participants per boat. Call Outdoor Recreation at 449-5215.

Pre-Holiday Celebration

A pre-holiday celebration at the Enlisted Club is Sunday. Two rooms of entertainment include Ol' Skool in the lounge, Hip Hop, Reggae and R&B in the ballroom. This event is FREE! A Soul Plate is available for purchase 11 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Tournament

A golf tournament in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. is tomorrow and Monday. This is a 36-hole, two-person best-ball stroke play tournament. The cost is \$20 per team plus green fees. Gross and net prizes will be awarded. Call Mamala Bay Golf Course at 449-6490.

Martin Luther King Jr. Scramble

A golf scramble is Monday at 1 p.m. The cost of \$25 per team includes green fees, prizes and hot dog burn. This is a nine-hole two-man scramble. Entry forms must be turned in by Jan. 13. This event is open to first 18 teams. Call Par 3 at 448-2318 for more information.

Kidsports exciting news

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5 to 5:45 p.m., bring your tots down to Kidsports for Mini-Club and Tots Club. These classes, designed for toddlers ages 25 - 36 months, offer an opportunity for parents to spend quality time with their child after work. The cost is \$20 per month for one session per week or \$24 for two sessions per week. Advance registration required. Call Kidsports at 448-6611.

Bench-press Competition

A bench-pressing competition will be held at the Fitness Center on Thursday at 4 p.m.

Register by noon Wednesday. Call the Fitness Center at 448-2214.

5k Resolution Run

The 5k Resolution Run is Jan. 21 at 8 a.m. Register by noon Jan. 20. Call the Fitness Center at 448-2214.

Aerobic Funk Fest

Start your fitness routine right at our Aerobic Funk Fest on Jan. 21 from 9 a.m. to noon

You can also receive free body fat assessments, blood pressure screenings and mini massages from Jan. 17 - 21. Call the Fitness Center at 448-2214.

**Golf on Lanai**

Join Information, Tickets and Travel on

Jan. 26 for golf on Lana'i. The cost of \$325 and up includes roundtrip airfare on a private jet and a round of golf at either Manele Bay or Koele Lodge. Call Information, Tickets and Travel at 448-2295.

Tailgate Sales

A tailgate sales is Jan. 21 from 7 to 10 a.m. at the Burger King parking lot. End stalls are \$11; all other stalls are \$8. Call the Community Center at 449-2361.

Swim lesson registration at building 3455

Swim lesson registration is on Monday and Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Group classes, levels 1 – 6, held Wednesday – Friday for two weeks, beginning Jan. 11. The cost is \$60/person for children 3 years and up. Private lessons are held on Tuesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$15 for each half-hour session. There is a maximum of four lessons per person. Call Outdoor Recreation at 449-5215.

Little League Registration

Baseball, softball and t-ball registration for ages 5 – 17 is on Jan. 18 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Community Center and Jan. 19 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Base Exchange. All registrants must have a current physical and birth certificate. Practice begins in March and the season begins in April. Call Youth Sports at 448-4492.

Boogie Board Lessons

Boogie boarding lessons are on Jan. 21

includes transportation, two guides and boogie board rental. The location will be determined on the morning of the lesson depending on wave conditions. Bring swimsuit,

towel, water, lunch, sunscreen and strap fins. Call Outdoor Recreation at 449-5215.

**Open Water Kayaking to Chinaman's Hat**

Enjoy open water kayaking on Jan. 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost of \$40 per person includes rental equipment, two guides and transportation. Bring water, lunch and sunscreen. Call Outdoor Recreation at 449-5215.

"Where's the Menehune?" Clue #2:

Find the Menehune based on the clues and win a prize!

Week 1 clue: Played through in the movie Bat-21.

Week 2 clue: Larger of the two on Hickam.



SPORTS BRIEFS & FITNESS EVENTS

Sports writers needed

The Kukini needs sports writers. People who enjoy watching sports and know the game are encouraged to call Senior Airman Sarah Kinsman at 449-6662 or email her at sarah.kinsman@hickam.af.mil to volunteer to cover a game. The volunteers must be available to cover intramural sports on nights and weekends.

Bowling tournament

A youth bowling tournament is scheduled for Jan. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hickam Bowling Center.

The cost is \$1.25 per game with free shoe rental. Awards will be given for high game and series in age divisions. Top participants will compete at the Air Force level for additional awards.

For more information or to register, call youth sports at 448-4492 or the bowling center at 448-2702.

Fitness resolution 2006

Join the Hickam Fitness Center staff from Tuesday through Jan. 21 for a variety of fitness events.

Free body fat testing will be offered daily from 3 to 5 p.m. A

bench press challenge will be Thursday at 4 p.m. and a 5K fun run/walk is Jan. 21 at 8 a.m.

There will also be a Funktastic aerobathon at 9 a.m. Jan. 21 featuring hip hop, kickboxing and stop. For more information, call 448-2214.

Step Aerobics certification

An Aerobics and Fitness Association of America Step Aerobics Certification be earned Feb. 5 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$229.

Get all the training needed or brush up on fitness skills with a

skills and choreography training Feb. 4. The cost is \$129. All U.S. ID card holders will receive 25 percent off registration fees.

To register or for more information, call 448-2214.

Heart Month

February is American Heart Month. The fitness center is offering 75 minute spinning classes every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. throughout the month of February.

Personal training

Start the year off right with a

boost to a fitness program by having a personal trainer.

The cost is \$30 per session, \$85 for three sessions, \$162 for six sessions or \$250 for 10 sessions. Group rates are also available. For more information, call 448-2214.

Message therapy

The Hickam Fitness Center offers massage therapy services including Swedish, rehabilitative, hot stone, lomi lomi, deep tissue massage and more.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 448-2214.

Airmen & Family

Readiness Flight

January Calendar

AFRF Phone Number:
449-0300

Hickam play group – Tuesday-Thursday sessions, Jan. 3-25 and 31, 9 to 11 a.m. at the preteen pavilion. Parents and children ages 0-5 are invited to join our early childhood specialist for age-appropriate educational and recreational activities. No registration required.

Looking for employment in Hawaii – Jan. 4 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Explore local employment trends, be informed on employment and education resources, register to use the Joint Employment Management System (JEMS) computerized job bank, and learn how to maximize your job search via the Internet. Call the AFRF to register.

Redeployment briefing – Jan. 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. If you recently

returned from a contingency or deployment of 30 days or more, please plan to attend this briefing. The Hickam Community Action Team will provide essential briefings and literature to returning personnel. Call the AFRF to register.

Sponsorship training – Jan. 5 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. As the unit’s ambassador, you can make relocation to Hawaii a positive experience. Let us help you by giving you a one-stop shop of the necessary tools and resources needed to be successful. Call the AFRF to register.

Family readiness briefing – Jan. 9, 23, and 31 from 10 to 11 a.m. All active duty, civilian, and family members facing the possibility of a deployment or remote assignment are encouraged to attend. Call the AFRF to register.

Transition assistance 3-day

workshop – Jan. 10-12 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Instructors from the Departments of Labor, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, and other community and base experts will provide information and training on the job search and other critical elements of the transition process. Spouses are highly encouraged to come. Call the AFRF to register.

Employment toolbox – Jan. 18 from 9 to 11 a.m. This one-stop shop will cover the do’s & don’ts of resume writing, resume formats, and skills and techniques to turn your interview into a positive experience. Call the AFRF to register.

What to expect when you’re expecting – Jan. 18 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Learn about labor and delivery, discover normal newborn characteristics, and gain information on child car seat safety. Call the AFRF to register.

Money management – Jan. 24 from 1 to 3 p.m. This “hands-on” class primarily focuses on hot money issues such as budgeting and debt management. Participants will be educated in the basic principles of budgeting and debt management and practically apply these principles in a classroom setting. Call the AFRF to register.

Deployed/remote-tour bowling extravaganza – Jan. 24 from 5 to 7 p.m. Deployed/remote-tour families are invited to a bowling extravaganza at the Hickam bowling center. Join us for an evening of sharing and fun! Call the AFRF to register.

Resume writing: peer review – Jan. 25 from 9 to 11 a.m. You will have the opportunity to have your draft resume reviewed by other participants and AFRF staff members.

Resume I, Employment Toolbox, TA Workshop, or equivalent training is required prior to attending this class. Call the AFRF to register.

Hickam play group – Jan. 26 from 9 to 11 a.m. The Hickam play group will meet at the Mokulele Fire Station. For directions or more information, contact Denise Vidinha at 456-4165.

Smooth move – Jan. 26 from 9 to 11 a.m. Subject matter experts will update you on the latest policy changes that may impact your move. All members and/or spouses are encouraged to come. Call the AFRF to register.

In-processing briefing – Jan. 30 from 8 a.m. to 4: 30 p.m. This is a mandatory briefing for all Air Force newcomers. Active duty members must first in-process through their Commander Support Staff.

SOLUTIONS, From B4

HEMAMCMOP
CEPEROHRMBANE
SISALIROCALT
PATSTANCHION
IREALETAUT
CARLSONEBBAIA
OKSBALTIC
APEDOMIT
STREAMNOR
PANPEWBRADLEY
DINOEARORO
TOGASONGORK
ALUMCLOGCANOE
KEYSHERABOER
EOSYARSLY

CHAPEL				
<i>Editor’s note: For more information on Base Chapel services or for prayer requests call the Chapel Center at 449-1754 or Nelles Chapel at 449-6562.</i>				
PROTESTANT Nelles Chapel Sunday Contemporary Service 8:30 a.m. Sunday Gospel Worship 11:15 a.m. Sunday Praise Gathering 5:30 p.m. Chapel Center Sunday Traditional 8:30 a.m.	JEWISH Aloha Jewish Chapel, Pearl Harbor 473-0050 Jewish Lay Leader Mr. David Bender 527-5877 Naval Station Chapel 473-3971	CATHOLIC Nelles Chapel Weekday Mass 11:30 a.m. Saturday Confessions 4:15 p.m. Saturday Mass 5 p.m. Chapel Center Sunday Mass 10 a.m.	ISLAMIC Friday Congregational Service (1935 Aleo Place, Punahou) 1 p.m. Muslim Association of Hawaii 947-6263	BUDDHIST Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin A Shin Buddhist Temple 536-7044 ORTHODOX For more information, call 438-6687